

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LIST OF CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) A method for the production of p-hydroxybenzoate, the method comprising:

- (a) contacting a transformed bacterial host cell with a medium comprising,
 - (i) an aromatic organic substrate selected from the group consisting of: toluene, p-cresol, p-hydroxybenzyl alcohol, p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, and aromatic compounds ~~degraded by the toluene monooxygenase enzyme pathway~~that are similar in chemical structure to toluene and the intermediates of the toluene monooxygenase pathway,
 - (ii) at least one fermentable carbon substrate, and
 - (iii) a nitrogen source;

wherein the transformed host cell is (1) lacking a p-hydroxybenzoate hydroxylase activity, and (2) comprises genes encoding toluene-4-monooxygenase, TmoX, PcuR, p-cresol methylhydroxylase, TmoST polypeptides and p-hydroxybenzoate dehydrogenase activities, each gene being operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences;

- (b) incubating the transformed host cell for a time sufficient to produce p-hydroxybenzoate; and
- (c) optionally recovering the p-hydroxybenzoate produced in ~~(i)~~(b).

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the fermentable carbon substrate is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides,

polysaccharides, carbon dioxide, methanol, formaldehyde, formate, and carbon-containing amines.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the fermentable carbon substrate is glucose.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the transformed host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas*, *Burkholderia*, *Acinetobacter*, and *Agrobacterium*.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the aromatic organic substrate is present in the medium in a concentration of less than 500 ppm.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the aromatic organic substrate is present in the medium from 30 ppm to 60 ppm.

18. Canceled.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the transformed host cell comprises plasmid pMC4 as shown in Figure 4.

20. (Canceled) The method of Claim 12 wherein the transformed host cell further comprises the genes encoding TmoST activity.